

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing SMS messages to a receiving party associated with a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

receiving a SMS message for a first device of the plurality of devices;

identifying a second device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device instead of the first device for receiving the SMS message based on information stored by the receiving party;

formatting the SMS message according to characteristics of the preferred device;

and

sending the formatted message to the preferred device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to a SMS-capable device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message as a voice message to a phone.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client software.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:  
storing messages in a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, comprising:

a database for storing information identifying each device of the plurality of devices and identifying a first device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device;

a gateway server for receiving a SMS message identifying a second device of the plurality of devices;

a server function for identifying the preferred device instead of the second device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the second device; and

a SMS server for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, the SMS server being further configured to format the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the SMS server is further configured to store messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, comprising:

- means for storing a specification of a preferred device;
- means for receiving a SMS message identifying one device of the plurality of devices;
- means for selecting the preferred device instead of the identified one device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the identified one device; and
- means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, the means for sending the SMS message comprising means for formatting the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving a SMS message including information identifying a first destination device;  
identifying a second destination device instead of the first destination device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the second destination device being different than the first destination device;  
formatting the SMS message based on the second destination device; and  
sending the formatted SMS message to the second destination device.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the first destination device and the second destination device are associated with a receiving party, and  
wherein the identifying includes:

identifying the second destination device based on a profile associated with receiving party.